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Title:
Press statement - Hallett Cove Development

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PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: HALLETT COVE DEVELOPMENT:

14/10/71.

Plans for the building of a boathaven, foreshore car park and motel at Hallett Cove have been rejected by the Government, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) announced today.

He said that the Minister of Conservation (Mr. Broomhill) had advised the Hallett Cove Development Company of this today.

Mr. Dunstan said that the decision was taken by Cabinet this week after detailed investigations by the State Planning Authority into various proposals for development in the Hallett Cove area.

"We have decided that, in fairness to the public and developers, that now is the time to announce that there are some forms of development this Government will not accept", he said.

"The plans proposed by the developers would have meant the quarrying of stone only several hundred yards south of the famed amphitheatre and the use of that stone as a basis for an elaborate set of boating marinas".

"On shore there were to have been substantial structures to cater for the people using these marinas".

"The three questions which had to be answered in relation to this development were -

- . would the quarrying and blasting affect the amphitheatre?
- . would the erection of the boathaven affect the beach and associated geological formations?
- . should private works be allowed to alienate half of the available public beach?

"We have decided that, in view of adverse answers to these questions, that the development is completely unacceptable from the viewpoint of public amenity".

Mr. Dunstan said that the uttering of words like 'development' and 'progress' by developers did not and should not automatically confer some kind of blessing upon their plans, however much they may be worth.

"Hallett Cove is a vital property of the people of South Australia, and my Government will protect such property".

"There must come a point at which all Governments in Australia take a stand to protect natural resources, and we are taking a stand at Hallett Cove because the project, though superficially attractive, is socially disastrous."

Mr. Dunstan said that the refusal of the Government to grant a licence for the boathaven, car park, and motel, did not necessarily mean that housing plans in the hinterland would be rejected.

He said, "We still have in hand a Cabinet investigation into how best to protect the area of scientific interest and the size of the necessary buffer zone".

"Announcements will be forthcoming on this aspect of the area's future."

"Although the Hallett Cove Development Company will not get much joy out of this decision, the situation we are in is in a sense an ideal one."

"It is not like Lake Bonney, for example, where damage has already been done to the State's interest".

"In the Hallett Cove situation we are altering the course of land use before it has begun to affect the property of the people of this State".
